

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated mutant cell comprising decreased levels of sialic acid containing host cell receptors for influenza virus relative to a corresponding wild-type cell which supports efficient influenza virus replication.
2. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 which is a mammalian cell.
3. The isolated mutant cell of claim 2 which is a swine, bovine, simian or canine cell.
Madin-Darby canine kidney cell
↑
MDCK → ex.
MDCK-Sn10
MDCK-Ma
4. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 wherein the wild-type cell is a MDCK cell.
5. The isolated mutant cell of claim 2 which is a mink cell.
6. The isolated mutant cell of claim 5 which is a mink lung cell.
7. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 which is an avian cell.
8. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 which has decreased levels of *N*-acetylneuraminic acid. → NeuNAc
9. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 which has decreased levels of *N*-glycolylneuraminic acid.
10. The isolated mutant cell of claim 1 which has decreased levels of *N*-acetylneuraminic acid and *N*-glycolylneuraminic acid. → NeuGc